GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2943
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2006
MOBILE SERVICE IN HILLY AREAS
Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)whether the telecom services particularly mobile phone service is negligible in the hilly areas mainly the rural areas of Uttaranchal;

(b)if so, whether mobile service is non-functional in this area due to inclement weather;

(c)if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d)whether the mobile phones do not function here despite the roaming facility; and

(e)if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps being taken by the Government in this regard for the proper functioning of telecom service particularly mobile phones service?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (e) Uttaranchal is a part of Uttar Pradesh (West) Telecom Circle Service Area for the purpose of mobile services. In this service area, besides Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), five other private operators are providing mobile service. As on 31st October, 2006, 388 mobile towers installed by BSNL is functioning in the State of Uttaranchal.

As per conditions of license agreement, the mobile service providers are required to cover 10% District Headquarters (DHQs) in one year and 50% DHQs in three years from the effective date of license. The service providers are permitted to cover any other city/ town in a district in lieu of the DHQ. The choice of DHQs/ towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% of DHQs lies with the service providers depending on their business decision. Therefore, separate data on rural network coverage especially in hilly areas of Uttaranchal is not maintained.

According to the service providers, they have installed state of the art telecommunication equipments for providing mobile services, which is all weather proof and does not get affected due to the inclement weather in the State. Also, the roaming facilities are working satisfactorily in the State.